

It is a rare moment when you feel that you can make a significant change for the good of many. I cannot stop global warming. I cannot end poverty. But I can stop using plastic bags, knowing that I am making a small but concrete impact on our environment. I can be an agent for change, in my family, in my town, and in my state. We can ban plastic bags.

The imperative reasons for enacting a ban on plastic bags are clear:

- We are diverting natural resources in the manufacture of plastic bags
- We are polluting lake, rivers, streams and oceans
- We are killing fish and wildlife
- We are clogging our landfills, never to decompose in our lifetime

We must change habits and thereby begin to pay attention to how we can make a difference.

I wholeheartedly support a statewide ban on plastic bags.

One concern in my town of New Canaan is to support my local merchants. They are the lifeblood of our town. We value the independent merchants and grocers. They are generous with support for charitable causes. They attract shoppers to our town. They know their customers and are the fabric of our town.

The increased cost of changing from plastic bags to paper bags and reusable bags is significant to the bottom line of the local grocers. To consider how to ameliorate their position in shifting away from plastic bags is important. I feel it is imperative that the ban include a 5 to 10 cent charge for each paper bag used at check out. This measure would bring income to the merchant, and would encourage patrons to shift to re-usable bags.

Many towns and cities across the country have banned plastic bags. The state of California has banned plastic bags. We can too. Connecticut must pass a plastic bag ban. To pass a ban is something big, yet straightforward and concrete in its implementation. I urge you to take action.

Sincerely,
Molly Farnsworth
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